



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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Subchapter:	7	Contract Close Out and Audit Information	
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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to advise Provider Agencies of the Department of Children and Families (the Department) audit requirements as mandated by the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-502) and the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (P.L. 104-156), Federal OMB Circular A-133 and the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, OMB Circular Letter 04-04.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to Provider Agencies for which the Department is cognizant. It should be used for both non-profit and for-profit entities receiving State and/or Federal financial assistance (Awards) from the Department and other sources (including direct and pass-through State and Federal funding). This policy also applies to those entities performing subcontracted services for Department Provider Agencies. It does not apply to vendors, who contract for goods or services with minimal or no program requirements (see NJ OMB Circular 04-04), or a social services client that is a beneficiary of a program.

III. DEFINITIONS

In addition to the defined terms included in the Glossary of the Contract Policy and Information Manual, the following terms, when capitalized, shall have meanings as stated:

Award(s) includes State grants, State aid, and Federal and State financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, loan guarantees, property, capital funding agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities and other assistance.

Cognizant is a term used to designate audit responsibilities and is generally used in conjunction with the awarding State agency that provides the predominant

amount of direct funding to a recipient that, originated with, or passed through the State agency.

Departmental Component means the division, bureau, commission, office or other unit within the Department responsible for the negotiation, administration review, approval, and monitoring of certain Third Party Social Service or training Contracts.

Management Decision means the evaluation by the Federal or State awarding agency or the Pass-Through Entity of the audit findings and corrective action plan and the issuance of a written decision as to what corrective action is necessary.

Pass-Through Entity means a non-Federal entity, which includes a State, local government, non-profit organization or for-profit organization that transmits a Federal or State Award to a Provider Agency or a subcontractor to carry out a Federal or State program.

IV. POLICY

- A. All Provider Agencies which expend either \$500,000 or more in Federal awards or \$500,000 or more in State awards, within their fiscal year, in which the Department is the largest state funding source (Cognizant), must have an annual Single Audit performed in accordance with Federal OMB Circular A-133 and Department policy. The reporting requirements are outlined in [Attachment 1](#), Sections F and G. These Provider Agencies must also complete a Notification of Licensed Public Accountant (NLPA) form ([Attachment 2](#)).
- B. All Provider Agencies which expend \$100,000 or more in combined Federal and State Awards but less than either \$500,000 in Federal Awards or \$500,000 in State Awards, within their fiscal year, in which the Department is Cognizant, must have an annual organization-wide financial statement audit performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book audit) and additional Department requirements as described below.

This audit report shall be in accordance with [Attachment 1](#), Section F, which includes a supplemental Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and/or a supplemental Schedule of Expenditures of State Awards. A combined supplemental Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards is acceptable. The Independent Auditor's Report shall contain an opinion on each Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and/or State Awards that is presented in the audit report. These Provider Agencies shall also complete [Attachment 2](#) (NLPA form).

- C. Provider Agencies that either expend less than \$100,000 in combined Federal and State Awards or have another NJ State department as the Cognizant department should not complete the NLPA form. Organization-wide audits are not required by the Department under these circumstances. If another Cognizant department requires an organization-wide audit of a Provider Agency, that audit report shall be forwarded to the Department when requested.
- D. Public Provider Agencies (local governments, public institutions of higher education, county welfare agencies, etc.)

The Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Treasury generally assume Cognizant audit responsibilities for public Provider Agencies within the State of New Jersey. If the Department does provide the most funding and accepts cognizance for a public Provider Agency, the appropriate audit report as described in sections IV.A. and IV.B. of this policy shall be forwarded to both the Cognizant Departmental Component and the DCF Office of Auditing within nine months of the agency's fiscal year end.

- E. Private Provider Agencies (nonprofit, for profit and hospitals) that engage a public accountant shall have their audit conducted:
 - 1. By individual(s) with the following credentials:
 - a. A licensed certified public accountant or persons working for a licensed certified public accounting firm; or
 - b. A public accountant licensed on or before December 31, 1970, or persons working for a public accounting firm licensed on or before December 31, 1970, sufficiently independent as defined by GAO standards, to produce unbiased opinions, conclusions, or judgments.
 - 2. Annually on the Provider Agency's fiscal year;
 - 3. On an organization-wide basis to ascertain that the financial statements fairly present the financial position, results of operations, or changes in net assets, and where appropriate, cash flows; and
 - 4. Are in accordance with the audit requirements contained in [Attachment 1](#) of this policy. Single audit reports of for-profit Provider Agencies should not make reference to OMB Circular A-133, but should make reference to Department Policy, Audit Requirements.
- F. Provider Agencies have a responsibility to determine that subcontracted services performed by entities expending \$100,000 or more in Federal and/or State awards, when the Department is the largest source of those Awards,

are audited according to this policy. A copy of this policy shall be made an integral part the agreement with the subcontractor, and the Provider Agency may be required to assume the full requirements of a Pass-Through Entity as detailed in OMB Circular A-133, Section 400(d). (See [Attachment 3](#))

- G. Provider Agencies that receive any amount of funding from the Department, including those that expend less than \$100,000 in combined Federal and State Awards, within their fiscal year, are subject to audit by the Department or its representatives at their discretion. It does not matter whether the Department is Cognizant. Records must be made available on request, which adequately identify the source and application of funds awarded. As in all audits, accounting records must be supported by source documentation.
- H. The reasonable cost of an audit is an allowable Contract cost when completed in accordance with this policy including the audit requirements contained in [Attachment 1](#).

V. PROCEDURES

A. Private Provider Agencies

- 1. The Provider Agency must submit one copy of the audit report to the DCF Office of Auditing and two copies to the Cognizant Departmental Component within 120 days after the Provider Agency's fiscal year end.
- 2. In conjunction with the audit report submission to the DCF Office of Auditing, the Provider Agency shall submit the Notification of Licensed Public Accountant (NLPA) form, which identifies key information about the Provider Agency. The NLPA form also identifies the Federal/State funding from all sources as well as the licensed public accountant who will audit the subsequent or next audit period.
 - a. All information in the NLPA form ([Attachment 2](#)) shall pertain to the subsequent audit period.
 - b. If the auditor has not yet been selected for the upcoming audit, the Provider Agency shall only complete the top half of the NLPA form and mail the form with the audit report.
 - c. Once an auditor has been selected, an updated NLPA form shall be completed and mailed to the DCF Office of Auditing.
 - d. If an updated form has not been received by the DCF Office of Auditing, it will contact the Provider Agency approximately 90 days prior to the next audit fiscal year end date to obtain any previously omitted information on the original NLPA form.

3. Electronic transmission of the audit report and the NLPA form at dcfauditing@dcf.state.nj.us is preferred. However, the audit report and NLPA form can be mailed to the Department of Children and Families, Office of Auditing, P.O. Box 729, Trenton, NJ 08625-0729. Failure to submit these documents can lead to Contract Default proceedings.
4. The audit report submission to the DCF Office of Auditing shall include the licensed public accountant's external quality control review. If a new auditor has been selected for the upcoming audit, an external quality control review of the new auditor shall be included with the audit report.
5. In addition to the audit report, the Provider Agency shall submit to the DCF Office of Auditing and the Cognizant Departmental Component, a corrective action plan to address each audit finding in the current year's audit report. The corrective action plan shall provide the name(s) of the contact person(s) responsible for corrective action, the corrective action planned, and the anticipated completion date. Corrective action shall be initiated within six months of the audit report submission.
6. When expenditures of Federal Awards totaling \$500,000 or more are incurred by the Provider Agency during the fiscal year, it shall submit a data collection form as described in Federal OMB Circular A-133, Section 320(b) to the Federal Clearinghouse. The reporting package as described in A-133, Section 320(c), must also be forwarded. Both the data collection form and the reporting package should be sent to the Single Audit Clearinghouse, 1201 E. 10th Street, Jefferson, IN 47132 within 9 months of the audit fiscal year end. The Provider Agency shall also forward a copy of the data collection form to the DCF Office of Auditing.
7. In accordance with Section 6.3 of the Department's Contract Reimbursement Manual, the Provider Agency shall submit to the Cognizant Departmental Component (and other appropriate Departmental Components when requested) copies of its worksheets used to reconcile the Department's final report of expenditures to the audited financial statements.
8. Summarization of audit report submission to:
 - a. DCF Office of Auditing
 - i. Copy of audit report
 - ii. Corrective action plan (for internal control and compliance findings in the current year's report) if prepared separately

- iii. Data collection form (if Federal expenditures are \$500,000 or more)
 - iv. NLPA form (for subsequent year's audit period)
 - v. External Quality Control Review
- b. Cognizant Departmental Component
 - i. Two copies of audit report
 - ii. Corrective action plan (for internal control and compliance findings in the current year's audit report)
 - iii. Reconciliation worksheets (crosswalk between the final report of expenditures and the audited financial statements)
- 9. Provider Agencies should use a competitive request for proposal process in procuring audit services. The Provider Agency shall include this policy in its contract with the licensed public accountant. Whenever possible, agencies shall make positive efforts to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises. Provider Agencies should also consider procurement of a new accounting firm every three years.

B. Department of Children and Families

- 1. The Cognizant Departmental Component shall:
 - a. Ensure that Provider Agencies meet the requirements of this policy;
 - b. Perform the duties of a Pass-Through Entity, as detailed in [Attachment 3](#), for Federal pass-through funds; and
 - c. Issue Management Decisions on audit findings within six months after receipt of Provider Agency audit reports, and ensure that the Provider Agency takes appropriate and timely corrective action.
- 2. The DCF Office of Auditing shall
 - a. Determine that the Provider Agency's independent public accountant is currently licensed in accordance with Section IV.E.1 of this policy and in compliance with Government Auditing Standards quality review requirements. If the accountant is not properly licensed or does not submit a copy of their quality control review, the DCF Office of Auditing shall inform both the Cognizant Departmental Component and the

Provider Agency that an audit conducted by such accountant is not acceptable, and that failure to comply with this policy is grounds for Contract default;

- b. Review each audit report to ensure compliance with the requirements specified in [Attachment 1](#), and notify the Cognizant Departmental Component of the results of its review on an exception basis;
- c. Notify immediately the Cognizant Departmental Component of any irregularities or illegal acts reported by the licensed public accountant; and
- d. Conduct or arrange for quality control reviews of selected agency audits and accompanying work papers at its discretion. Reviews will include determining whether reported Contract revenues, expenditures and other statistics by individual program and budget category were subjected to adequate testing, where applicable.

Commissioner